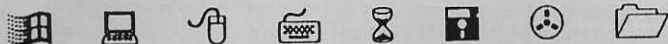


The monthly A*C*E

since 1982

April 2001



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from the desk of the interim Managing Editor

Ye Olde jta: [jta: jtart@realns.com](mailto:jtart@realns.com)
or: (716) 365-8870 (not collect)

As several writers have mentioned, the 14th Annual Winter SWL Fest was a huge success, with only a few wierdos in attendance. The big raffle prizes were an Icom R75 and a Drake R8B, and they had a plethora of smaller prizes as well. Unfortunately, I didn't win either of the radios (as usual) so the shack remains the same. Maybe next year – if I can get there again!

In other news, the property has already gotten a full-price offer (!) and the prospective buyers want to take possession at the end of May. This puts me in an even more tenuous position, since I still have to disassemble and pack everything, AND find a place to live. The A*C*E really needs someone to take over the Publishing end of things, so if you have a little free time and want to give something back to the hobby, feel free to contact interim Hdq. It'd be best if you had a decent computer and some knowledge of DTP, but heck, if I can do it, anybody can.

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CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by George Zeller

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1300-2145 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@nacs.net address, with <http://www.nacs.net/~georgez> providing access to my web page.

KSMR, KENTUCKY STATE MILITIA RADIO FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED USA CLANDESTINE GOES ON AIR

On many occasions in the past, including last month, I have lamented the fact in this column that there are nearly no active shortwave clandestine transmitters that broadcast in English or Spanish to the Western Hemisphere. Those days are over. The biggest thing to hit North American clandestine radio in over a decade took place in early March. A new clandestine commenced transmissions on 90 meters, with transmissions in English beamed to the USA. KSMR, Kentucky State Militia Radio, has been on daily ever since with a one hour broadcast every night at 0300 UTC on 3260 kHz. Signals have been excellent all over North America, indicating that a relatively high power transmitter is in use. Many people, including me, John Adams, and our DiaLogs editor Lee Reynolds, have been hearing them on a daily basis with armchair copy, even using small portables.

The general format of their shows includes a sign on at 0300 with a catchy song, "Take My Gun from My Cold Dead Hands." A male announcer then normally goes into a commentary on whatever has caught his eye that day. The subject matter is anti-Federal government, especially opposition to gun control and abortion. Several DXers have observed that there really isn't a whole lot of difference between the content of the KSMR shows and similar programming that you can hear on other "patriot" radio shows carried by licensed transmitters such as WWCR. The politics at the station are mainly toward the far end of the right wing. The station normally blames Democrats and big government for our problems, although there is some populist venting against the "New World Order" that is supported by Presidents Bush (not a typo). After the commentaries, the main purpose of the station appears to be support for various militia groups around the USA, including notice of meetings with contact phone numbers. The station appears to have a promotional purpose for the militia groups, does some coordination of activities, and has announced future plans to carry other patriot radio programming sent to the KSMR studio via satellite. KSMR differs considerably from other "patriot" programs on shortwave today, since it is the only one that is transmitting its shows over the airwaves without a license.

The new station caught everybody in the DX hobby by surprise. Clandestine Radio Watch quickly came out with three special supplements in one week, in coordination with *Cumbre DX*. Breaking news like this is obviously well suited to information exchange via the internet. Cumbre and CRW quickly alleged that they had documents showing that the FCC has been investigating two amateur radio operators since December for supposed unlicensed broadcasting. Cumbre and CRW identified these individuals as "Major" Steve Anderson (formerly AA8DP) and "Commander" Charlie Pucket (KF4ZMG), both officers in the Kentucky State Militia. CRW claimed that a confrontation and/or bust by the FCC was imminent, but as of March 18 when I wrote this column, there still had been no sign of any standoff between the FCC and KSMR. It's hard to say what has happened between March 18 and the day that you are reading this, so it would be a good idea to check <http://www.ClandestineRadio.com> for the very latest developments. For that matter, you can check out the situation for yourself on 3260 kHz at 0300 daily.

On March 18 the station announced that they had made the decision earlier that day on QSL's. They aren't going to respond to any reception reports, although they indicated that they appreciate signal reports. Their rationale for this decision is that they are a "serious station" and not a "hobby operation," and thus they won't QSL. It seems to me that this is not sound logic. Plenty of "serious" broadcasters, licensed and clandestine, have sent out QSL's as a public relations and promotional move for several decades. Intentionally building distance between a

station and the DX hobby is not a particularly sound public relations strategy, but so far KSMR does not seem to care about this.

The announcers periodically mention that they are not citizens of the United States, but are instead citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. From time to time they note that they are supporters of the Confederacy. By now there can be no doubt that this is a genuine clandestine station. It is in fact the first clandestine in history that has maintained a regular daily schedule of broadcasts to the United States from a transmitter site within the United States, presumably from Kentucky. It is a self-professed clandestine, given its on-air denials that it is a pirate. It advocates a variety of civil disobedience, including failure to pay USA income taxes and advocacy for starting LPFM "patriot" pirates across the country.

Given this astonishing set of developments, there is widespread speculation about why the FCC and/or the FBI, US Marshals, and Army have not yet busted the station. Most of this speculation has centered around the sensitive political nature of the station, along with the relatively new administration of President George W. Bush. The station's theme song and its claim to be a coordinator for armed militia groups has upped the ante of a bust somewhat. On their March 18 broadcast, the station discussed this issue openly. During the broadcast the announcer made the following remarks, "If they (the government) try a Waco or Ruby Ridge here, it would be a very bad policy decision." This was a very mild way of expressing the danger of a potential violent confrontation.

Going further into the realm of speculation, it seems to me that a bust of this particular clandestine would have to be planned by armed government forces. A bust would therefore need clearance from very high levels of the USA government, certainly including the new Attorney General John Ashcroft. This is not just a normal situation for J. Edgar Hoover of the FCC and his D.E. van. It seems likely to me that Ashcroft is not particularly interested in being compared with his predecessor Janet Reno, particularly this early in his term. On the other hand, looking at the picture of Abraham Lincoln on my \$5.00 bill, it also seems certain to me that the federal government will not look the other way for an indefinite period of time with this station. An unlicensed radio station that regularly questions the sovereignty of the United States government while supporting the Confederacy is not a station that can be ignored forever. You all will recall what Abraham Lincoln did in such a situation, and something similar is certain in the short run with KSMR. It therefore would be a very good idea to start following this station very closely. We are seeing history in the making.

Although it does not mention KSMR, the Kentucky State Militia maintains a web site at <http://www.freelibrary.com/ksm/contents.htm> on the internet. The site is worth a look if you'd like to see the ideology of this group. Steve Anderson has given the address of the station over the air as 245 Elrod-Martin Road, Somerset, Kentucky 42503, although address announcements are not common. They have announced other frequencies in their plans such as 6880 and 12181, but so far 3260 seems to be their frequency of choice. Grab this one while you can.

HARRY HELMS MYSTERY SIGNAL

Veteran ACE members will remember Harry Helms, the noted shortwave author and a longtime mystery signal columnist in *The ACE* over the years. Harry checks in this month to report an unusual transmission that is of interest to us. A strange high pitched pulsing tone with a speed of about 90 pulses per second was on 1140 kHz medium wave. Harry notes that a strange signal covered much of the west coast between February 17 and February 20. He says that the noise is available via the www.shark.com/1140 web site. At other times the signal was relaying KSFN, a medium wave station from Las Vegas on 1140 kHz. The relay was apparently on 1136 kHz, creating more of a signal mess on this channel.

Harry heard the noise with a good signal several times. He had contact with chief engineer Tracy Teagarden KSFN-1140 Las Vegas, who denied that KSFN was off frequency. Teagarden did indicate that in the past the USA military has sometimes relayed local medium wave stations from "S4," a secret military base at Papoose Lake, Nevada. But, Teagarden said that it was his understanding that the FCC was treating this particular incident as a pirate case. Harry also contacted the FCC about this signal, and received nothing in return but a cryptic voice mail message from a FCC staff member who did not identify himself. This voice mail said that the

offending signal had been "shut down." Harry says that it is highly unusual for FCC staff to communicate with the public without identifying themselves, and I have to agree with Harry.

Although this incident is still being looked into by many in the radio hobby, Harry presumes that it is possible that the offending signal came from either the China Lake Naval Weapons Station or Fort Irwin, with the Goldstone Communications Facility also a possibility. He also speculates that the FCC may have tipped the transmitter off about plans for several medium wave station chief engineers to run direction finding tests on the signal, thus leading to a quick QRT by the transmitter on the 21st. Did anybody else hear this signal?

MARTIN SCHOECH WEB SITE

As previously noted, Martin Schoech of Germany, the co-editor of *Clandestine Radio Watch*, has merged much of his activity with the stunningly excellent [clandestineradio.com](http://www.clandestineradio.com) web site. But, Martin retains a number of interesting web pages on his own site. At the multilingual <http://www.listen.to/srs-germany> you can still find Martin's QSL information pages and his pirate address list, in addition to a link sending you to clandestineradio.com for detailed clandestine information. Thus, we should not forget Martin's regular web site.

ALAN P. MASYGA INFORMATION

Longtime ACE member Alan P. Masyga of Minnesota checked in a couple of months ago, but I have to start with an apology to him. His tips got caught in the failure to print the Clandestine Profile column by mistake in *The ACE* during February, and then his material got cut out for space reasons last month. This month we will try and make it up to him.

Alan almost had a premonition of the new militia clandestine, since his tips are related to the changing technologies being exploited by KSMR. First, Alan forwarded an article from the January 13 *Winona Daily News* that pointed out the forthcoming direct satellite broadcast technology that is commercially imminent. That same issue mentioned the large number of radio stations that are streaming their audio via the internet. Of course, KSMR's announced plans for satellite relays of patriot shows are a part of this evolving technology mix for radio in North America.

Alan also noted that WGTG has long since changed their call letters to WWFV. He also forwarded an article on the virtual death of the LPFM after Republican congressmen gutted it.

FEST REPORT

I am happy to say that I saw several ACE members at the Winter SWL Festival in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania in mid-March. As usual, a great time was had by all. Attendance was well over 200, and the quality of forums seemed first rate. There was certainly a significant presence of free radio at this year's fest. Among the forums was an unlicensed broadcasting panel hosted by your editor George Zeller, and also including Allen Weiner of WBCQ (and many past pirates), our Interim Publisher John T. Arthur, and the editor of *Hobby Broadcasting* magazine Andrew Yoder. As usual, the semi-clandestine Voice of Pancho Villa held forth over the airwaves at its traditional 0500 UTC slot on 6955 kHz. Given some unexpected last minute business that conflicted with the Fest, "Dr. DX" Harold Cones was forced to miss the festivities this year for the first time. As a result, your editor George Zeller stepped in to be the host for the Fest banquet on Saturday night.

Certainly the biggest news from the Fest was an announcement by Allen Weiner that he had just closed a deal to acquire another shipboard shortwave transmitter, which will be licensed in Belize. The m/v *Katy* is currently in Boston Harbor being renovated, with completion expected sometime during the summer. Allen did not rule out the possibility that the ship might transmit from various rare countries (or from international waters) during its voyage from Boston to Belize. He told me that the purpose of this new enterprise was a "positive and upbeat promotion of shortwave radio." Stay tuned.

If you didn't manage to make it to Kulpsville this year, I'll look forward to seeing you next year in March 2002.

TEN TEC 340

Last month I promised to have some material in the column this month with the results of the comparison between the Watkins Johnson HF-1000 and the Ten Tec 340 receiver that I conducted at the French Creek DXpedition in February. But, given space constraints, I think that most of this will have to wait until next month. Be advised in the mean time that both of these high-end DSP receivers acquitted themselves very well indeed at the DXpedition. The tiny weaknesses of each are different from each other, and thus they made an effective pair in all kinds of DX situations. I'll try and go into more detail next month.

THANKS!

The input of ACE members and other DXers is vitally important to this column, and to all other ACE columns. We thank Martin Schoech (Germany), Nick Grace (DC), Bud Stacey (Alabama), Lee Reynolds (Vermont), Harry Helms (California), Alan P. Masyga (Minnesota), Ross Comeau (Massachusetts), Dennis Kosakowski (New York), John Adams (Ohio), an anonymous source, and George Zeller (Ohio) for providing material. Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by April 16 for the May *Clandestine Profile*.

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Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572

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The sole purpose of this column is to enlighten & educate ACE members about the many facets of Part 15 and micro-radio- this is YOUR column! Please send all stuff & what-have-you to the address or e-mail address above and YOU'LL get credit or blame, whichever you prefer! (The opinions of this nut are not necessarily those of this fine publication....)

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY! And no, everything in this particular column is true to the best of my ability and knowledge. I toyed with the idea of submitting a goofy, really wired-up-wrong column for this month, but my schedule allowed things to slip away from me, so...maybe next time?

IS LPFM DEAD? That's the question I'm asking this month; I have the understanding since Colin (what a name!) Powell's son Michael took over the FCC, the LPFM info has been taken off the FCC website. From his actions of late, I'm convinced Colin Powell is an anti-American globalist and I believe Michael is following in his footsteps. It is the opinion of one confidante that Hell will freeze over before any LPFM licenses get issued. Your opinion?

BAD NEWS: According to Radio World (3/14/01), the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Richard Rowland for operating an unlicensed FM station in Longwood, FL. Also, in a strange case, the Supreme Court has been asked by the lawyer of Alan Fried for help in "indicating" Fried's rights of free speech when he operated an unlicensed station. The Court is asked to consider a technical issue; so far, Mr. Fried has not been fined for operating the station.

FROM THE E-MAIL BAG: Comes info from Rich Egan, who regularly searches the AM and FM bands for pirates! Rich mentioned that he currently has heard a couple of pirates on the east coast, who sound mainly like bored college students. Their programming is 99% music and 1% commentary; maybe they'll break loose, get loose and produce some wild stuff in the good ol' pirate tradition, huh Rich? We certainly hope so! Rich would also like to hear from other enthusiasts at: richegan@webtv.net.

Rich also mentioned the phone number mentioned in last month's column to call about the booklet, "What To Do When The FCC Knocks On Your Door" has been disconnected. I haven't been able to research this yet, but we hope the San Francisco address is still current. He also mentioned he's received a Pirate CD and VHS cassette from www.hobbybroadcasting.com. Hmmmm, seems like we've had something of the sort offered here in the past in the way of cassettes and maybe CD's as of late? We haven't had any "want ads" lately, maybe it's time to reinstate these for the benefit of the readership? What about it, Staff?

Also in the e-mail bag comes information from Solid Rock Radio; they're no longer Webcasting via mycaster.com; that service went belly-up and didn't tell them! Instead, they're now on www.live365.com; at the top of the home page, type in WSRR and that should get you to them! If you have problems getting them via this outlet, or through blackplanet.com or <http://members.fortunecity.com/slappy2.solidrockradio>, let them know via e-mail at: beebop@phoenixdsl.com. By the way, they're always looking for unsigned artists and indie bands to release over this medium; contact them for exposure!

WWW.SOUNDAMERICA.COM REVISITED: Yup, I've had the opportunity to finally explore this website and boy! is it chock-full of goodies! With the proper set-up, anyone can download & record the stuff there for rebroadcast via your fave transmitter (legal of course!) for around-the-house listening or whatever. Content includes theme music from commercials, radio/TV/movies, cartoons, Christmas, miscellaneous sources...the list is LARGE, I tell you! My favorites is in the parent directory under "spoofs", which contain

stuff like you'd hear on some of the best pirate radio stations! You'll laugh your pants off at some of the spoofs there; I know I did! Whether you log on to just listen or to utilize the material, it'll be worth it. And if you're still not Internet-capable, go to a good friends' house and enjoy an evening of yuks! This site gets an "A+" from me!

TAPS FOR NAPSTER? Will we be hearing funeral music soon from these folks? As you may or may not know, Napster lost the fifteen month court battle to allow listeners to download music from their website. They are now trying to encode the contents, to comply with the court's decision, but so far, just misspelling a song name will get you back where you want to be. I can see both sides to the issue here and both have good and bad sides, in my opinion. Well, hardly anything's free any more....

EDITORIAL: Folks, I believe radio is the last, lost frontier we have to express ourselves and it's been squashed on a local level and by big corporations; however, due to a report in Radio World (3/14/01, I think), they say that radio **SHOULD** take on a more local flavor, since consolidation has made things, well, **BLAND**, to use my own description. With LPFM quieted, LPAM virtually unknown and our First Amendment rights being manipulated, do **YOU** think pirate radio in all forms may surge upwards?

So with that, I'd like to thank the contributors to this column: Rich Egan and WSRR. By the way, to Chuck Smith: thanks for the patriot info you sent awhile back; I was interested in this a few years ago, but lost touch and intend on re-investigating this. Thanks! And I'm looking forward to **YOU** contributing for next month! de Bud



DIALOGS April 2001

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unlty Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130

Email: lreynolds@cyberportal.net

ICQ# 4139354

(Next deadline for submissions: April 19, 2001)

LATE LOGS

Alfa Lima International (Hoogeveen)

- 02/19/01, 1625-1627, 21890A - mx - "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" faded in and out. (ZR-CA 122)

Blind Faith Radio (blindfaithradio@yahoo.com)

- 02/18/01, 1639-1652*, 6955U - mx - classic rock. "Your millennium Pirate Radio station" slogan. (GZ-OH 353)

KIPM (Elkhorn)

- 02/03/01, 1252-1324*, 6950U - altering weather patterns, the voice of Tesla. Good audio. (MP-SD 554)

KMUD (Lone Pine)

- 02/18/01, 0131-0330, 6934A - usual variety of mx. (ZR-CA 222)
- 02/19/01, 0116-0305, 6934A - as above. (ZR-CA 222)

Radio Three (A.C.E.)

- 02/12/01, 2335-0007, 6950L (DC-IN)
- 02/14/01, 0034-0110, 6950L (DC-IN)
- 02/15/01, 0033-0111*, 6950L - mx - rock. Sal Ammoniac with a contest. (GZ-OH 353)

Take It Easy Radio (Belcast)

- 02/04/01, 0530-0537*, 6955U - mx - Eagles. "Raise a little Hell". (MP-SD 433)
- 02/17/01, 0134-0112, 6948U - show based on the Barry Saddler "Green Beret" album. (GM-CT 333)
- 02/17/01, 0216-0246*, 6956U - tribute show to Mystery Radio. WMPR-like music. (GM-CT 434)(ZR-CA 333)

UNID

- 02/04/01, 0542-0549, 6955U - mx - rock. OM announcer, phone dialing. (MP-SD 131) (That was "Pirate Radio Central", Marina - a new one!)
- 02/17/01, 0312-0315, 6950A - mx - instrumental. (Crunch? ZR-CA 333)
- 02/18/01, 1530-1534*, 6950U - mx - rock, "International Shortwave" jingle, mention of California Astronomical Association. (MP-SD 333)
- 02/18/01, 1551-1627, 6950U - W.C. Fields, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, "Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" (MP-SD 333)
- 02/18/01, 2018-2038*, 6950U - mx - sounded like Motorhead, punk followed. Loops of tortured sounding voices. (LR-NH 233)

The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainronswr@yahoo.com)

- 02/18/01, 0138-0154, 6950U (ZR-CA 222)
- 02/18/01, 0233-????, 6955U. (ZR-CA 222)

WHYP (whyp1530@yahoo.com)

- 02/03/01, *1325-1420*, 6960U - setting up your own Pirate Radio station. (MP-SD 322)
- 02/04/01, 0334-0348*, 6950U(?) - caught signing off. (MP-SD 333)
- 02/06/00(May have meant '01?), 0020-0102, 6949U - setting up your own pirate radio station. JTA and JB interview about setting up your own station, Captain Ron and JB interview, promo for "This Old Pirate". (Pse QSL MII-ON 354)
- 02/18/01, 0200-0236*, 6950L - mx - rock. George Zeller clips. James Brownyard with weather. (GM-CT 444)(JC-ON 444)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Alpha Lima International (Hoogeveen)

- 02/25/01, 0745-0757, 6383A - OM announcer, "Alpha Lima International". Very tough copy under an S9+20 utility station a couple of kilohertz above! (LR-NH 212)
- 02/28/01, 2333-2336, 11470A - mx. (JC-ON 242)
- 03/04/01, 1730, 11470A - faint heterodyne. JC-ON 111)

Borderhunter Radio (Baarle-Hertog)

- 02/25/01, 0711-0729, 6210A - mx - Queen, Chicory Tip. OM announcer. (LR-NH 252)

Radio Nova International (Leicester)

- 03/07/01, 0205-0220, 9290A - mx - Hollies, Simon and Garfunkel, Jingles, i.d. by OM announcer. (Pse QSL MH-ON 243)
- 03/11/01, 0008-0050, 9290A - good signal, mx, i.d.s announcing UK address. (CL-MA)
- 03/16/01, 0247-0308, 9290A - mx - Yes, Springsteen, Slade, B-52s. (LR-NH 444)
- 03/18/01, 0239-0331, 9290A - mx - Lennon, U2, Yes, Dire Straits. OM announcer with multiple i.d.s and mail/email. (RC-MA 443)

Radio Spaceman (There is one, but I don't have it yet)

- 03/04/01, 0016-0116+, 6305A - mx - Melanie. "On the East Side of Holland, this is Spaceman". i.d.s in English, German and Dutch. (CL-MA)

SWRS (Wuppertal)

- 03/04/01, 2323-2330*, 11470A - mx - pop, English i.d., email address given. (CL-MA)

Tower Radio (Markelo)

- 02/25/01, 0658-0731A, 6306A - mx - Zombies, P.O. Box and telephone number announcements, "Tower Radio" announcements by OM. (LR-NH 342)

UNID

- 02/25/01, 0126-0138, 6306A - mx - Police, polkas. Weak. (RC-MA 232)
- 03/04/01, 0742-0756, 6210A - mx - pop. Announcing phone #'s at 0744. Anyone have an idea? (CL-MA)

NORTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Crunch Radio (FRN/A.C.E.)

- 02/20/01, 0319-0401, 6950A - mx - Big Band. Low audio. (JS-NE)
- 03/07/01, 0349-0357, 6950A - mx - 30's-style. (JS-NE)
- 03/09/01, 0314-0406, 6950A - mx - "California here I come". Off with "Star-spangled Banner". (JS-NE)(ZR-CA 222)

Fat It Radio (FRN)

- 02/22/01, 2240, 6650U - mx - Steppenwolf. Testing audio. QSLs to all who report via FRN's A.C.E. Loggings vine. Possible downward frequency drift. (AF 444)

Jean Chretien Worldwide (Unknown)

- 03/16/01, 0150-0243, 6950L - mx - cuts interspersed with "We will not let them tear down" loops. "Riverboat Fantasy" piano piece. (LR-NH 555) (Pse QSL JS-NE)

KIPM (Elkhorn)

- 03/10/01, 0438-0457, 6955A - "The Adversary" - cut short. (GM-CT At Kulpville 555)(LR-NH At Kulpville 555)
- 01/10/01, 0510+, 6955A - "The Adversary". (GM-CT At Kulpville 555)(LR-NH At Kulpville 555)

KMUD (Lone Pine)

- 02/22/01, 0024-0216, 6931A - mx - Yes. (ZR-CA 333)
- 03/02/01, 0038-0310+, 6932A - mx - Neil Young. Repeat program. (ZR-CA 223)
- 03/03/01, 0051-0145, 6932A (ZR-CA 222)
- 03/04/01, 0046-0245, 6932A - mx - jazz, blues. (ZR-CA 322)
- 03/09/01, 0014-0326, 6931A - repeat program. (ZR-CA 223)

Radio 3 (A.C.E.)

- 03/04/01, 1507-1647, 19000U - programs #18, #19, #20. Excellent until ute station wiped 'em out. (JS-NE)(Unsure if this is the real or fake! ZR-CA 333)

Radio Azteca (Belfast)

- 03/18/01, 1614-1702, 19000U - programs # 37 and #38. Fading started at 1650. (JS-NE)

Radio Michigan International/KRMI (krmi6955@yahoo.com)

- 03/04/01, 0600, 6950U - mx - novelty songs, theme from "Welcome back, Kotter". Muffled audio, slight frequency drift downwards. (AF 142)
- 03/18/01, 0120-0131, 6950U - Irish-themed show. "Beer, beer, beer", "Everyone's Irish on Saint Patrick's Day". (JS-NE)

Radio Neptune Universal Service (Blue Ridge Summit)

- 03/05/01, 0300-0325+, 6955U - show #7. (ZR-CA 333)
- 03/05/01, 0405-0446, 6955U - rerun of show #7. Best signal so far. (JS-NE)

Take It Easy Radio (Belfast)

- 03/09/01, 0150-0210*, 6950U - Eagles tunes, dedications, talk about planned shows. Off with signature signoff tune. (AF 444)(RC-ON 444)(JS-NE)(ZR-CA 333)
- 03/09/01, 0424-0441, 6950A - (reduced carrier LSB?) - "Molly and Fibber McGee" show. (JS-NE)

The Voice Of Pancho Villa (Unknown)

- 03/10/01, 0501-0508, 6945U, shift to 6955U - Pancho and Captain Ganja talk Alan Weiner into taking his ship to Florida visiting Katherine Harris. (GM-CT At Kulpville 555)(LR-NH At Kulpville 555)

WHYP (whyp1530@yahoo.com)

- 02/20/01, 0117-0125, 6950L - program dedicated to "Master DXer - Al Fansome". (JS-NE)
- 02/23/01, 0335-0340, 6950L - mx - Natalie Merchant. (AF 444)
- 03/03/01, 0208-0301*, 6950L - mx - "Hotel JTA", "What's that smell?", sign off by OM who sounded like George Zeller. (JC-ON 333)(JS-NE)(ZR-CA 333)
- 03/03/01, 1320-1400*, 6950L - mx - rock, "Hotel JTA" parody, clips of the dulcet tones of George Zeller. (GZ-OH 353)

WLIS (Blue Ridge Summit)

- 03/04/01, *0100-0102*, 6950U - on with regular IS. Jack Boggan on with drop announcement to let us know that they're working on a commemorative show. (LR-NH 344)
- 03/05/01, 0605, 6950U - on with familiar IS. Bram Stoker i.d.s. (JC-ON 322)

WMFQ (Providence)

- 02/20/01, 0035-0101, 6950L - mx - usual chanted i.d.. (DC-IN 333)

Z-100 (bigz100fm@yahoo.com)

- 02/27/01, 0035-0210, 6955U - mx - 70's, 80's. (DC-IN 333)
- 02/28/01, 0150-0211, 6955U - mx - rock oldies. Nicely produced. (JS-NE)
- 03/01/01, 0129-0234+, 6955U - mx - oldies. (DC-IN 333)
- 03/02/01, 0136-0140+, 6955U - as above. (JS-NE)(ZR-CA 433)
- 03/04/01, 0308-0407, 6955U - mx - Stones, Beatles, Beach Boys, Steely Dan. Professional quality Z-100 i.d.s. (GM-CT 232)(ZR-CA 333)
- 03/05/01, 0144-0355, 6955U - mx - rock oldies. Nicely produced. (JS-NE)(ZR-CA 433)
- 03/06/01, 0124-0214+, 6955U - mx - rock mix. (DC-IN 333)
- 03/07/01, 0158-0305*, 6955U - mx - oldies with singing i.d.s. (CL-MA) (JS-NE)
- 03/08/01, 0035-0220, 6955U - mx - good oldies mix. (DC-IN 333)
- 03/09/01, 0006-0118*, 6955U - mx - oldies. (JC-ON 433)(ZR-CA 233)
- 03/11/01, 0155-0240+, 6955U - mx - rock oldies. Nicely produced. (JS-NE)
- 03/13/01, 0119-0126, 6955U - mx - "Junior's Farm", "Cherry Cherry", "Talking in your Sleep". (AF 131)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

KRMI (krmi6955@hotmail.com)

- 03/05/01, 0549-0604*, 6950U - cartoon character voices, difficult copy. (JC-ON 222)

UNID

- 02/17/01, 0310-0316, 6950A - mx - adult, light. No i.d. (GM-CT 243)
- 03/04/01, 0201-0209*, 6950U - the mystery numbers station. (GZ-OH 242)
- 03/04/01, 0330-0334, 6950U - sfx - Windows shutdown sequence sound, Star Trek bits. (GM-CT 333)
- 03/04/01, 0420+, 6940A - foreign language with mx that sounded as if it came from the Middle East. (GM-CT 231)
- 03/04/01, 0610-0621, 6950U - the mystery numbers station. See below. Audio problems. (AF 231)
- 03/05/01, 0159-0209, 6950U - the mystery numbers station. "III X VI" or "555 X 35". Off with "X X X X". (AF 131)(Pse QSL JS-NE)(ZR-CA 323)
- 03/05/01, 0315, 6950U - mx - rap. (JC-ON 333)
- 03/07/01, 0347-0354, 6950U - mx - old time tunes. (LR-NH 444)
- 03/13/01, 0120-0125, 6955U - mx - Neil Diamond, Beatles. (Z-100? JS-NE)
- 03/15/01, *0140-0148*, 6950U - the mystery numbers station. (LR-NH 333)
- 03/18/01, 0334-0351, 6936A - mx - continuous Technopop. (RC-MA 443)

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RAMBLINGS

Well, got my first report from Mark Humenyk – thanks, Mark! Marina Pappas in South Dakota has been entertaining herself with Pirate listening during a cold snap. She hopes to drag South Dakota kicking and screaming into the twentieth century when her Mailstation arrives.

Of interest is the station KSMR that has shown up recently. George Zeller was commenting upon the lack of clandestine stations in the USA, now one has shown up. Of course, in a previous edition of the A.C.E. George was wondering why some hadn't shown up as a result of the election recount fiasco. I figure these Good Ol' Boys are obviously closet liberals who have shown up on the air for exactly this reason and to speak up for their man Gore! I've forwarded any reports on this station to George – lustful for loggings though we are, this station belongs squarely on George's side of the fence.

I've been doing a little Euro Pirate listening over the last few weeks – the time differential messes things up a bit because one of the best times to catch Euro Pirates over here turns out to be between 0600 and 1000 UTC on Sundays. That works out to 0100-0500 Eastern local. This is not a Good Thing unless you're either young, have chronic insomnia or make heavy use of recreational stimulants. Fortunately there's one station that almost any of us can receive during the local evening and night hours – take a listen on 9290 AM for Radio Nova International. This station has an excellent signal and a rather unusual (by American standards) playlist. If you simply must spend all day Sunday trotting around like a zombie, you can try listening between 6200 and 6400 in the wee small hours of Sunday morning. 6210 is one good frequency to keep an ear on.

Have you ever wondered why there are no all-polka Pirate stations to be found? A little polka music while you're carp fishing is the only way to go! [Publisher's Note: You never heard of Polka Shortwave? Jts]

The gathering at Kulpville is over once again and a good time was had by all. Of interest from the Pirate perspective was a little talk given by the marvy George Zeller (along with Andy Yoder, Alan Weiner, Tim, et. al) on the matter of unlicensed broadcasting. The announcement by Mister Weiner (at Kulpville) of the finalization of plans to get a new offshore ship on the air doubtless has the FCC getting ready to hoist their own Jolly Roger and do some boarding and looting if said ship strays within grabbing distance!

Some of the stations heard by your columnist while at Kulpville –
 KIPM

The Voice of Pancho Villa
 The Voice of Juliet
 WDX R (WDCD?)

- there, if you're a QSL, uh, bound, that alone should persuade you to visit Kulpville next year!

Report writing –

Okay, a few people have asked me questions about what's needed for in a report for this column so I figure I'd better write a brief description of what makes life easy for me –

DATE – TIME – FREQUENCY/MODE – BRIEF DETAILS OF TRANSMISSION – SIGNAL REPORT

Date is self-explanatory. If you hear a station on the air and it's late at night, running past midnight, then you log the date as being the day on which the transmission began. Otherwise it's whatever date Mickey on your wrist says it is!

Time should always be UTC (The Time formerly known as "GMT"! Watch out for forgetting that UTC runs anywhere between 3 and 6 hours ahead of ours depending on which US timezone you're in. (Well, 2 and 6 if you count Atlantic time, but they don't have radios there and, if they did, they don't have electricity to run them on anyway!) Look out for remembering to convert to UTC but failing to remember to convert the date at the same time if it takes you past midnight!

Frequency/Mode is easy enough -- I usually round up/down the frequency to the nearest whole number in kilohertz when editing these reports. Mode is usually –

AM (Amplitude Modulation) – abbreviated to "A"
 USB (Upper Side Band) – abbreviated to "U"
 LSB (Lower Side Band) – abbreviated to "L"

- example: 8080U means "8080 kHz, Upper Side Band mode"

Brief details of transmission – a little information on what the programming was – music, talk, announcements, religious chanting, gerbils squealing, whatever. What you see in this month's column should give you a good idea of

the kind of detail that's needed. The really detailed reports should be reserved for your reports directly to the operator. I need just enough so that it can give the readers of this column a good idea as to what station it was that they caught a partial transmission form.

Signal report – this column uses the "SIO" method.

"S" stands for "Strength" – how strong the signal is.

5 = Excellent
 4 = Good
 3 = Fair
 2 = Poor
 1 = Barely Audible

"I" stands for "Interference" – how much noise, how badly other stations are interfering with the signal.

5 = None
 4 = Slight
 3 = Moderate
 2 = Severe
 1 = Extreme

"O" stands for "Overall" – how good or bad the signal sounds to you when all is considered.

5 = Excellent
 4 = Good
 3 = Fair
 2 = Poor
 1 = Unusable

I do, of course, need your name and address (or initials and state will do) for the column. If you want a QSL from the operator, add "Pse QSL" to the appropriate logging – some operators will send a report in response to this – no guarantees though. The best way, of course, is always a nicely written report to the operator's mail drop!

Thank you for your report on the reception of

ACTION RADIO

This confirms your report of our

DATE:

TIMEUTC

FREQ.

POWER

ANTENNA

MODE

BROADCAST

ACTION RADIO
 REQUEST LINE
 412-551-7392

QSL

ACTION RADIO



"Pirate Radio From The City of Three Rivers"

VERIED RESPONSE

Chris Lobdell
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Stoneham, MA 02180
EMAIL: clobdell@mediaone.net

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: April 19th.

Hi and welcome to the April edition. Good to see an increase in QSLs received. Keep 'em coming!

Did you know the club has an ACE AWARDS program? We have some pretty nice certificates to send out. More on this in next month's VERIED RESPONSE.

CRUNCHE RADIO. Color QSL sheet with a "Crunch Radio SW Engineering" logo for report to FRN/ACE website in 3 days. [Sedlacek-NE] Sheet received. [Silvi-OH]

EAT IT RADIO. Full data Buckwheat sheet in 2 months for WMPR tribute; QSL #69. [Smolinski-MD] Full data sheet in 2 months for FRN/ACE posting. [Sedlacek-NE]

JEAN CHRETIEN WORLDWIDE. Email QSL in 16 hours. [Reynolds-NH]

RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND. 6299, full data card stock sheet in 5 weeks along with a post card of Hoogeveen. Address: Box 663, 7900AR Hoogeveen. [Lobdell-MA]

RADIO THREE. QSL sheet with picture of Sal Amoniac with station theme "All Sal Amoniac, All The Time" in 2 months for report in ACE dialogs. [Sedlacek-NE]

RADIO TORENVALK. 11440, full data QSL comic #2 sheet, and 2 "I Hate Radio Torenvalk" stickers in 5 weeks for a relay via R. Cochiquas. [Lobdell-MA]

TAKE IT EASY RADIO. Full data colorful "Jolly Roger Flag" sheet #185 for log in the ACE. [Pappas-SD]

VOICE OF CAPTAIN RON SHORTWAVE. Full data QSL sheet commemorating their first live broadcast of 2001. Picture of gorilla with quote by the "jellyfishmonkey" saying "Screw The Superbowl" in 6 weeks for email report. [Sedlacek-NE] Full data pirate ship sheet in 11 months from Captain Ron. [Lobdell-MA]

VOICE OF THE ANGRY BASTARD. Two partial data cards (#1, #14) signed by Joe Stalin. [Arthur-NY] Full data white card #9 in 2 months from Mr. Stalin. [Smolinski-MD] 6950, small homemade card in 68 days for UNID log in ACE. [Zeller-OH]

WHYP. Green QSL for The Halloween 2000 broadcast in 2 months for an email report. [Stacey-AL]

Thanks to the following contributors: John Arthur/JTA-NY, Marina Pappas-SD, Lee Reynolds-NH, Bud Stacey-AL, John Sedlacek-NE, Lee Silvi-OH, Chris Smolinski-MD and George Zeller-OH

Until next month, Happy Pirate DX!



Covert Comms

By Tom Sevart

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News from Simon Mason this month is that North Korea has ceased numbers broadcasts after five decades of activity. Numbers activity ceased in December 2000 after a gradual decrease in activity since June, after the first ever North-South Korean summit meeting between the two Korean leaders.

North Korea beamed numbers transmissions to the South with three different stations. Two of them operated via Radio Pyongyang and were last heard on August 25th & December 8th 2000. A third station operated on 4770 and 5870 and was last heard on September 11th. Numbers transmissions from North Korea continue in Morse Code.

It makes one wonder if these numbers transmissions were actually used for agents or simply "misinformation" broadcasts filled with random numbers. It stretches believability to think that North Korea pulled all its agents from the south. Yet Morse numbers continue. This is just speculation on my part, but it would appear that the three numbers stations that ceased transmitting may have been transmitting dummy messages in the first place, either in order to make South Korea believe that more agents were operating there than there actually were or to try to overwhelm cryptanalysis efforts.

Lest anyone think that North Korea has had a change of heart toward capitalist societies, the website of the KCNA, or Korean Central News Agency, contains a lot of old cold war communist propaganda. Check out <http://www.kcna.co.jp> to find out what we "imperialist" Americans are up to. Some of it is even laughable. North Korea used to broadcast the same material in RTTY 50/175 from station HMF, but I'm not sure if it's still active.

Al Fansome passes along an article from the NY Times dated Feb. 20. The article details a claim from a Harvard computer science professor, Dr. Michael Rabin, who says he has discovered a way to send coded messages that are totally unbreakable, even by an all-powerful entity with unlimited computing power. If he is correct, then he has discovered the first code that is totally unbreakable. One-time pads, even though they are highly secure, can still be broken with powerful supercomputers. Even systems such as PGP, while difficult, can be eventually broken.

Rabin's code is based on a key that vanishes as it is used. While not the first to develop this idea (the German Enigma machine used this method), Rabin claims that never before has anyone been able to make it both workable and to prove mathematically that the code cannot be broken.

Systems like PGP can be broken because users use the same key for encoding & decoding many times over. Rabin's system uses a stream of random numbers to encode & decode the message. The number stream is not stored in the computer's memory, and essentially vanishes as the message is encrypted & decrypted. A PGP key may be stolen, but there is no chance of stealing the key for Rabin's code.

Mathematicians and computer scientists say that Dr. Rabin may have solved the ultimate problem in cryptography, finding a practical code that is totally unbreakable. However, they also claim that making a totally unbreakable code may not make much difference in today's world. Some claim that today's codes are already so good that there is little advantage to making codes totally unbreakable.

At this time, Dr. Rabin's idea is just an idea backed up by mathematical proof that it works. He says he has no interest in profiting from it, and no company is offering to buy it.

Many thanks to this month's contributors. Keep that information coming, folks. This is your column.

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS
PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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